

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10013 091213Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7247

DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN, SNAR, RP

SUBJECT: ASEAN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO COMBAT ABUSE OF
NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF: MANILA A-148

BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN
MANILA SIGNED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO COMBAT NARCOTICS
ABUSE. THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN GESTATING SINCE 1972,
WILL, IF ENFORCED, RESULT IN ENHANCED REGIONAL COOPERATION
(AND WITH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES) AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG
TRAFFICKING AND PRODUCTION. EMPHASIS WILL BE ON CONSULTA-
TION (WITH TWICE YEARLY MEETINGS BETWEEN HEADS OF NATIONAL
NARCOTICS AGENCIES) AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. THANKS
TO RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM WE EXPECT
PHILIPPINES TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN DEVELOPING REGIONAL
EFFORT. TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS IMPLEMENTED, DELCARA-
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PAGE 02 MANILA 10013 091213Z

TION WILL ENHANCE US EFFORT AND MAY RELIEVE DEA

SOME COMMITMENTS IN EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND ENFORCEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT US SHOULD RELATE TO NEW EFFORT PRIMARILY BY CONTINUING EFFECTIVE BILATERAL PROGRAMS, BEARING IN MIND DANGERS OF OVER-ASSOCIATION WHICH APPLY HERE AS MUCH AS THEY DO IN OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN. END SUMMARY.

1. DECLARATION WAS INITIALLY CONCEIVED IN OCTOBER 1972 AT THE ASEAN EXPERT'S GROUP MEETING ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN MANILA. DECLARATION WAS DRAFTED AT JULY 1975 MEETING OF ASEAN HEADS OF NATIONAL NARCOTIC DRUG AND ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, DECLARATION WAS APPROVED AT RECENT ASEAN MINISTERIAL. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT HEADS OF NATIONAL NARCOTIC AGENCIES WILL HENCEFORTH MEET AT LEAST TWICE ANNUALLY FOR CONSULTATIONS AND TO UPGRADE THE DECLARATION AS NECESSARY.

2. PART I OF THE DECLARATION DEALS WITH COOPERATION TO COMBAT ABUSE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS. IT COVERS PREVENTION, PENALTIES, ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON SYNDICATES, ELIMINATION OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION, CANNABIS AND COCA BUSHES, ELIMINATING ILLEGAL MANUFACTURING OF DRUGS, ORGANIZING COOPERATION IN DRUG RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO UPGRADE NARCOTIC LAWS. PART I WILL BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE NOT ONLY TO THE DEA EFFORT IN ENFORCEMENT, BUT ALSO TO THE UN, COLOMBO PLAN, AND OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PREVENTION, EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH. IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION WILL BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO DEA, PARTICULARLY IN INDONESIA WHERE THE OLD DUTCH LAW OF 1924 PREVAILED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE 1976. THE INDONESIANS ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED THE NEW NARCOTIC LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES PASSED IN 1972 AND PATTERNED THEIR NEW LEGISLATION ALONG THESE LINES. EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS TO ELIMINATE ILLEGAL MANUFACTURE

OF DRUGS WOULD SIMPLIFY AND ASSIST DEA'S EFFORTS ALONG THE SAME LINES.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 10013 091213Z

3. PART II OF DECLARATION PLEDGES MEMBERS TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION WITH COLOMBO PLAN, UN AND ITS SPECIAL AGENCIES, INTERPOL AND OTHERS. AGAIN, TO EXTENT THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS ACTUALLY IMPROVED, IT WILL BENEFIT ALL ASPECTS OF US EFFORT AND HELP TO RELIEVE U.S. OF SOME COMMITMENTS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, REHABILITATION, AND ENFORCEMENT INTELLIGENCE.

4. PART III SPECIFIES EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH, MODUS OPERANDI, IDENTIFICATION OF TRAFFICKERS, MANUFACTURERS, CULTIVATORS, TECHNICAL SKILLS IN COMBATING DRUG OFFENSES, PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION. THIS SECTION SHOULD ALSO HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS FOR DEA TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IMPROVES REGIONAL INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION EFFORTS. UNIFIED PROSECUTION PROCESSES WOULD SIMPLIFY FUTURE EXTRADITION OF NARCOTIC VIOLATORS SINCE EACH COUNTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY VIOLATORS WITHIN ITS RESPECTIVE LAWS.

5. IN OUR VIEW, THANKS TO RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PROGRAM PHILIPPINES SHOULD BE ABLE TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS OF DECLARATION AND PROVIDE DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP TO OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS. INDEED PHILIPPINES ARE ALREADY PLAYING THIS ROLE AS INDICATED BY INDONESIAN ADOPTION OF NEW LEGISLATION BASED ON PHILIPPINE LAW OF 1972, AND GOP DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM ATTENDED BY STUDENTS FROM INDONESIA. THERE IS PRESENTLY DISCUSSION THAT PHILIPPINES MAY BECOME DRUG TRAINING CENTER FOR ASEAN NATIONS.

6. WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW U.S. CAN BEST RELATE TO DEVELOPING ASEAN EFFORT IN THIS FIELD. IN GENERAL WE BELIEVE THAT SAME PRINCIPALS SHOULD APPLY AS IN OTHER AREAS OF US-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP; I.E., WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON EFFECTIVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. NARCOTICS EFFORT IS TYPICAL OF ASEAN ACTIVITIES IN THAT IT EMPHASIZES CONSULTATION AND INFORMAL COOPERATION AND DOES NOT ENVISION A REGIONAL NARCOTICS AGENCY. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER NEW JAKARTA SECRETARIAT WILL COVER NARCOTICS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MANILA 10013 091213Z

FIELD; IF SO, IT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP CONTACT, BEARING IN MIND DANGERS OF OVER-ASSOCIATION WITH USA WHICH ARE AS PERTINENT IN THIS CASE AS IN OTHER FACETS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN.
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